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HOUSE BILL NO. 29

INTRODUCED BY J. SINRUD

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REDUCING THE SHORTFALL IN GENERAL FUND REVENUE BY IMPOSING A \$105 ANNUAL USER FEE ON EACH ATTORNEY, EXCEPT A GOVERNMENT ATTORNEY OR A NONPROFIT LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION ATTORNEY, WHO USES THE STATE LAW LIBRARY; REQUIRING THAT THE FEE BE USED TO OPERATE THE STATE LAW LIBRARY; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE AND AN APPLICABILITY DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. State law library user fee.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), each attorney admitted to the practice of law in this state shall pay a \$105 state law library user fee to the clerk of the Montana supreme court the first time in each calendar year that the attorney uses the state law library in person, through an intermediary, by phone, by computer access or other electronic device, or in any other manner. The fee must be paid within 30 days and is good for the remainder of the calendar year.

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to an attorney using the state law library while employed by the state, the federal government, or a local government or employed by a nonprofit legal services organization providing free legal services to indigent persons.

(3) The clerk of the Montana supreme court shall deliver the money collected under this section to the state treasurer for deposit in the general fund. The money must be used to pay the cost of operating the state law library.

(4) Delinquent fees may be collected in the manner provided in 37-61-212.

**NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 37, chapter 61, part 2, and the provisions of Title 37, chapter 61, apply to [section 1].

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Applicability.** [This act] applies to attorneys using the state law library on



1 or after [the effective date of this act].

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